**Parts of the Mass**

The Mass is divided into four parts:

1. **Introductory Rites**
2. **Liturgy of the Word**
3. **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
4. **Concluding Rites**

There are two primary books used in the celebration of the Mass: the Roman Missal and the Lectionary. The *Roman Missal* contains the prayers for the Mass (introductory rites, the Creed, all the prayers for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rites). The *Lectionary* contains the cycle of Scripture readings used during the Liturgy of the Word (First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, and Gospel Reading).

1. **The Introductory Rites:**

* Sign of the Cross
* Greeting
* Penitential Act
* Gloria
* Collect (Opening Prayer)

1. **Liturgy of the Word**

* First Reading
* Responsorial Psalm
* Second Reading (on Sundays, Solemnities, and Feasts)
* Gospel Reading
* Homily
* Creed (Nicene or Apostles’)
* General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)

1. **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

* Preparation of the altar and the offerings
* Prayer over the Offerings
* Preface
* Eucharistic Prayers
* Communion Rite (Lord’s Prayer, Sign of Peace, Breaking of the Bread (Fraction), Communion)

1. **Concluding Rites**

* Brief announcements
* Blessing
* Dismissal

Over the next two weeks, we will look at some of these elements in more detail.